

## **Monitoring the Planet's Heartbeat: Keeping Track of the "Solid" Earth**

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Over the past half-century, space-geodetic technologies have changed completely the way we look at the planet, not only in terms of exquisite details and accuracy, but also in terms of how the entire planet changes with time, even on “human” time scales. The remarkable achievements of Earth observing missions over the past two decades, and the success of future international missions described in the *Decadal Survey* depend both implicitly and explicitly on the continued availability and enhancement of a reliable and resilient global infrastructure for precise geodesy, and on ongoing advances in geodetic science that are linked to it. This allows us to deal with global scientific, technological and social issues such as climate change and natural hazards, but the impact of the global precise geodetic infrastructure also permeates our everyday lives.